Ukraine - Alberta Relations

This map is a generalized illustration only and is not intended to be used for reference purposes. The representation of political boundaries does not necessarily reflect the position of the Government of Alberta on international issues of recognition, sovereignty or jurisdiction.

PROFILE

Capital: Kyiv

Population: 42.6 million (2016; not including Crimea and Sevastopol)

Language: Ukrainian (official); Russian widely spoken, Romanian, Polish, Hungarian

Government: Republic

Head of State: President Petro Poroshenko (since May 2014)

Head of Government: Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman (since April 2016)

Currency: Hryvnia (UAH),
CAD $1 = $19.64 UAH, 1 UAH = CAD $0.051 (June 2017)

GDP: USD $92.6 billion (2016)

GDP (PPP): USD $352.6 billion (2015)

GDP Per Capita (PPP): USD $2,174 (2016)

GDP growth rate: 1.8 per cent (2016)

Inflation: 12.4 per cent (2016)

Unemployment: 8.9 per cent (2016)

Key Industry Sectors: coal, electric power, ferrous and nonferrous metals, machinery and transport equipment, chemicals, food processing.

Sources:
Bank of Canada, Economist Intelligence Unit

DID YOU KNOW?

- The Ukrainian-Canadian Heritage Act was signed in 2016. It states that September 7 of each year shall be known as "Alberta's Ukrainian-Canadian Heritage Day". It also recognizes the year started on September 7, 2016 as Ukrainian-Canadian Heritage Year.

- Ukrainian independence in 1991 followed centuries of foreign rule by Poland, Austria-Hungary, Russia and finally the USSR.

- August 24, 2016 marked the 25th anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

- In 2016, Ukraine joined the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement with the European Union (EU), which aims to modernize and develop Ukraine's economy, governance and rule of law to EU standards.

- Travel between Canada and the European Union is allowed without the need to obtain a visa for a period of up to six months.

- 2016 marked the 125th Anniversary of Ukraine Settlement in Canada.

RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

- Alberta has had a long history of involvement with Ukraine and has contributed to building social, political and economic reform in Ukraine.

- The Advisory Council on Alberta-Ukraine Relations (ACAUR), created in 2000, provides advice to the Alberta Government on its relations with Ukraine. The current chair of the ACAUR is MLA Jessica Littlewood.

- In 2005, Alberta welcomed Lviv as its newest sister province.

- In 2004, Alberta entered into a sister province relationship with the western Oblast of Ivano-Frankivsk, which was renewed in 2010 for a further five years.

- The commitment to explore areas of co-operation between Alberta and Ivano-Frankivsk was renewed by a Letter of Understanding (LOU) signed during former Governor of Ivano-Frankovsk's, Mr. Mykhaylo Vyshyvanyuk, official visit to Alberta in August 2013.

- During the same visit, Governor Vyshyvanyuk, and Edmonton's former Mayor, Stephen Mandel, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the City of Edmonton's wholly-owned corporation, Waste RE-solutions Edmonton, to assist the Government of Ivano-Frankivsk with establishing environmentally sustainable waste management systems.
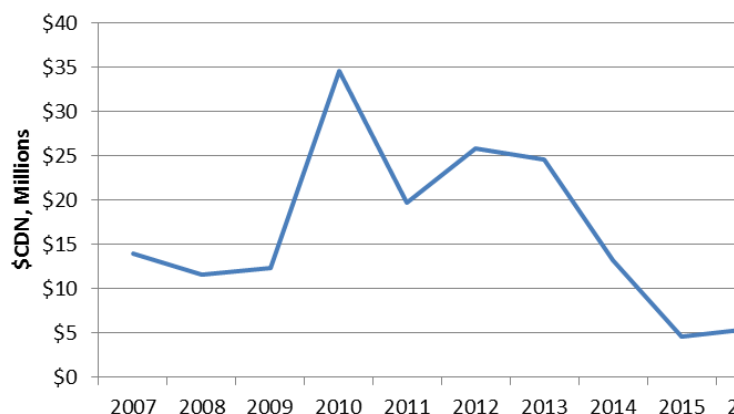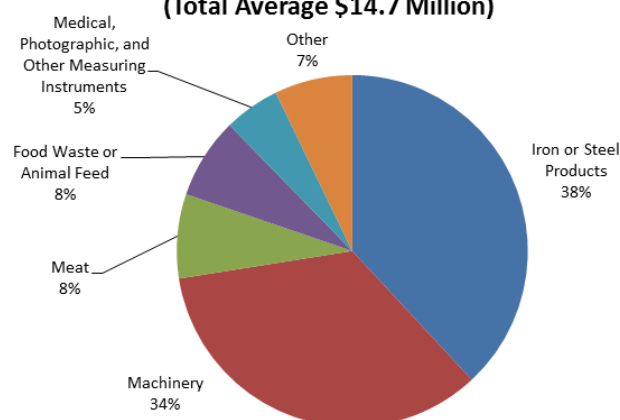
TRADE AND INVESTMENT

- On July 11, 2016, the Government of Canada and Ukraine signed the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement (CUFTA) which entered into force on August 1, 2017. This represents an important milestone in the Canada-Ukraine bilateral relationship. Once in force, CUFTA will create new opportunities for businesses in both countries.

- Alberta exported an average of $14.7 million worth of goods to Ukraine from 2012-16. Alberta top exports included iron or steel products ($5.6 million), machinery ($5.1

Alberta's Exports to Ukraine (2007-2016)

Alberta's Merchandise Exports to Ukraine 2012-2016 (Total Average $14.7 Million)

million), meat ($1.1 million) and food waste or animal feed ($1.1 million).

- Alberta's direct imports from Ukraine averaged CAD $4.2 million from 2012 to 2016. Top imports included iron and steel products (CAD $2.1 million), iron and steel (CAD $1.6 million), beverages (CAD $0.11 million) and machinery (CAD $0.10 million). This figure does not include goods sold in Alberta that have arrived via distribution hubs in other provinces.

COMMUNITY

- According to the 2011 census, there are approximately 345,000 Albertans of Ukrainian descent. Just over 29,500 Albertans reported Ukrainian as their mother tongue.

IMMIGRATION

- From 2012-16, 1,819 immigrants who were citizens of Ukraine chose Alberta as their destination. Approximately 68 per cent were economic immigrants. This includes principal applicants and their spouses and dependents. These economic immigrants were most commonly occupied as labourers in processing, manufacturing and utilities.

- From 2012-16, 957 Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) work permit holders who were citizens of Ukraine were allowed to work in Alberta. These workers were most commonly occupied as labourers in processing, manufacturing and utilities, masonry and plastering trades and contractors and supervisors, agriculture, horticulture and related operations and services.

- From 2012-16, 468 unique international students who were citizens of Ukraine held a valid study permit that was signed in the given year and were destined to study in Alberta.

ENERGY

- More than half of Ukraine's primary energy supply comes from its uranium and coal resources, although natural gas also plays an important role in its energy mix.

- Ukraine consumed about 33.2 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas in 2016. Compared to 2015, gas imports fell by 32 per cent from 16.4 bcm to 11.1 bcm. No gas was imported from Russia in 2016, resulting in an increased reliance on EU imports.

- Ukraine's proven natural gas reserves are 900 bcm, representing 0.5 per cent of the world' oil reserves. As of 2016, proven oil reserves total 400 million barrels (bbl) compared to Alberta's 165.4 billion bbl.

- Ukraine is a major gas consumer. Natural gas demand fell 33 per cent between 2013-15 due to economic downturn, conflicts in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and the annexation of Crimea which cut approximately 15 per cent of Ukraine's pre-conflict gas consumption.

- Ukraine has 0.4 billion barrels of crude oil reserves. Production has been steadily declining, averaging 31.9 thousand bbl per day from May 2016 – April 2017.

- Electricity production in Ukraine is estimated to be approximately 157.2 mMWh in 2015. The country is heavily dependent on nuclear energy and its fifteen reactors generate about 55.7 per cent of the total electric power supply. Fossil fuel sources (39 per cent) and hydropower (4.3 per cent) generate the remainder of Ukraine's electric power, with marginal volumes contributed by wind generation. While previously a significant share of power generation came from natural gas, most fossil fuel power plants now use coal and oil for generation.

- Transit fees are a major source of revenue for Ukraine and gas price (and debts) is also a source of contention with Russia causing multiple gas supply disruptions to Europe in the past.

- With Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and support of unrest in Eastern Ukraine, Ukraine is eager to reduce its dependence on Russian energy and this presents an emerging opportunity for Alberta private sector expertise

in both conventional and non-conventional oil and gas extraction.

- Oil and gas, and in particular unconventional (shale) extraction, continues to be a sector of potential interest for Alberta companies who have capacity in exploration, equipment and services. Opportunity exists for exports of equipment (drilling) and services/technologies, especially horizontal onshore and offshore drilling, technologies for reviving exhausted fields, on-site laboratory services, and investment projects.

- Ukraine's natural gas infrastructure is in need of major modernization costing around $4.8 billion in new investments, according to a feasibility study ordered by Naftogaz of Ukraine.

- Zhoda Investments, via its wholly-owned subsidiary Shelton Canada Corporation, has a 50 per cent interest in the Arkhangelskoye field. Their partner, Chornomornaftogaz, is the leading state-owned Ukrainian oil and gas company specializing in offshore projects. This license expires in 2038.

- The Canada Ukraine Chamber of Commerce (CUCC) has been active in promoting Alberta-Ukraine business links in the energy sector.

- The Ukrainian Gas Industry Day was held at the 2017 Global Petroleum Show in Calgary, Alberta. This event was aimed to present the Ukrainian energy sector reform progress, new opportunities for Canadian oil and gas investors, suppliers and producers in line with the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement.

EDUCATION

- Ukrainian language and culture education have had a place in Alberta schools since 1902. The first provincial curriculum for Ukrainian as a second language was introduced in 1956.

- Ukrainian has been offered as a language of instruction in Alberta public schools since 1974.

- Established in 1973 the Ukrainian bilingual program was the first bilingual second language program to be created in the province of Alberta. In 2012-13, 860 students were enrolled in a Ukrainian bilingual program offered in four school authorities, and 230 students were enrolled in Ukrainian language and culture courses offered in six school authorities.

- Thirteen Alberta schools are twinned with schools in Ukraine.

- Since 2006, the Department of Education and Science of Lviv Oblast State Administration has assigned a Ukrainian language advisor to Alberta Education to enhance cultural ties, support curriculum development, and promote Ukrainian language and culture. There is only one Ukrainian language advisor posting in the world.

- Ukrainian language teachers from Alberta have ranked prominently in the international competition of Best Teachers of Ukrainian Language Abroad, against other candidates from countries such as Spain, Italy and Norway.

- Privately-run heritage schools have operated within the Ukrainian community since the turn of the century.

- The Ukrainian Folklore Program at the University of Alberta (U of A) was established in 1987. It acts as a bridge linking Ukrainian and Western scholarship. The program provides financial and organizational support to Ukrainian institutions and encourages the study of Ukrainian-Canadian.

- The U of A and MacEwan University jointly formed the Canada Ukraine Research Team (CURT) in 2003 to collaborate with researchers and policy staff at the Institute of Special Pedagogy (ISP) in Kyiv. Their efforts focus on improving education services for children with disabilities.

- In 2003, the Ukrainian Knowledge Internet Portal (UKIP) Consortium Association was formed to support Ukrainian language education in Alberta. The Consortium developed an online Ukrainian Learning resource for schools called Oomroom.

- The U of A has had a student exchange program with the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv since September 2006.

- The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) is a prominent centre of Ukrainian studies at the U of A. The Institute celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2016.

- The Peter and Doris Kule Folklore Centre is affiliated with the Ukrainian Folklore research program at the U of A. It is the largest folklore research group in Western Canada.

- In 2014, the U of A and MacEwan University embarked on a three-year research project aimed at investigating key areas of the reforms in Ukraine. This Research Initiative on Democratic Reforms in Ukraine (RIDRU), which also includes a consortium of universities from Ukraine and other countries, explores three dimensions in the democratic reforms of the government of Ukraine: good governance and the rule of law; post-secondary education reform, and nationality, culture, and language policies.

- In 2015-16, MacEwan University assisted Ternopil State Medical University (TSMU) to develop and implement a project aimed at enhancing Ukrainian nursing curriculum with a contemporary course on mental health trauma/PTSD. After successful pilot delivery at TSMU, the course has been integrated into the national nursing curriculum by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, and proliferated across the country.

- MacEwan University maintains a dynamic program of collaboration with three partner universities in Ukraine: National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy (NaUKMA); Ternopil State Medical University (TSMU) and Ukrainian Catholic University. This covers faculty and student exchanges in a variety of disciplines, including sociology, journalism, and nursing, and the publication of the "Social, Health, and Communication Studies Journal".

- MacEwan programming in Ukraine is coordinated by its Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre (URDC), and supported by local community groups, in particular by the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education (UFCE)

Scholarship and Award Programs

- Alberta has two post-secondary scholarships with Ukraine aimed at faculty, institutional and student exchanges:

  o The Alberta Ukrainian Centennial Commemorative Scholarships established in 1991 to acknowledge the significant contributions of Ukrainian settlers in Alberta.

  o The Ukraine International Education Award was established in 2003 by an endowment from Alberta Advanced Education as part of the ministry's commitment to international education.

- These awards are offered to graduate students from either Ukraine or Alberta who are involved in a practicum, co-op, internship, research project or apprenticeship program in either country.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Alberta's Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General is involved in the Canada International Development Agency's (CIDA) Ukraine Juvenile Justice Reform Project (UJJRP) (2010-2015).

- Ukraine has received funding from the Government of Alberta through the International Development Program in Alberta Culture and Tourism for projects focused on health care, at-risk youth and youth capacity building.

- In 2013-14, $125,000 in emergency disaster relief funding was also provided to assist the victims of Ukraine's civil unrest with medical, surgical and rehabilitation care for families of the deceased, injured and wounded.

- Between 2008 and 2013 Grant MacEwan University, in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Studies in Disabilities (Winnipeg), delivered the project "Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities in Ukraine," funded in large part by the CIDA. The project entails working with ministries, universities, institutes for professional teacher upgrading, schools, community non-governmental organizations and parent associations to develop the capacity for Ukraine to offer inclusive education schools and classrooms to the public.

AGRICULTURE

- Alberta's recent agri-food exports to Ukraine have included processed animal feed and pork. However, opportunities exist for Alberta companies specializing in animal genetics, farm machinery equipment, technology and seeds for sowing.

- In 2010, four universities created the Prairie Agricultural University Initiative in Ukraine (PAUIU) and visited several cities in October 2010 and February 2012. Partners in the initiative are the Universities of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and MacEwan University.

FORESTRY

- The Government of Ukraine has adopted a strategy aimed at supporting domestic wood producers with access to raw materials becoming one of the major priorities in their forest sector. Canada is a net importer of wood products from the Ukraine.

CULTURE

- In September 2006, Culture and Community Spirit signed an agreement with Lviv, establishing a genealogical research service between Alberta and Ukraine to link their archival institutions and record depositories ($200,000 over four years donated by the Alberta government). This project was

- renewed in 2010 and will soon embrace four Oblast archives in Western Ukraine.

- Alberta established formal relations with cooperating museums and scholarly institutions in Lviv and Chernivtsi in the areas of folklore, ethnography, and genealogy.

- Since 1975, the province has owned and operated the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, a 130 hectare open-air museum east of Edmonton which portrays life in the early pioneer days of Ukrainian settlement in Alberta. It cooperates with numerous Ukrainian museums and academic institutions, facilitating various scholarly exchanges.

- The Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta (UCAMA), created in 1972, holds an extensive library and exhibits historical artifacts, archival documents and photographs. In all, there are 6 private museums devoted to the preservation of Ukrainian history and culture in Alberta.

- WORLD-FM broadcasts across Alberta in many different languages, with daily programming in Ukrainian.

- Alberta is home of the only professional Ukrainian dance company in Canada, Shumka, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2009. Shumka is world-renowned, and its tours have included performances in the opera houses of Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kyiv, and Donetsk in Ukraine.

- Through the Canada Ukraine Trade and Investment Support Project, Alberta Culture representatives recently met with representatives from Golden Gate Production studio located in Kyiv to discuss opportunities to co-produce film and television projects for Canadian and Ukrainian markets.

RECENT VISITS

- October 2016: Ukrainian Ambassador to Canada, Andriy Shevchenko, visited Edmonton to explore opportunities for furthering Alberta-Ukraine relations.

- August 2013: The Governor of Ivano-Frankivsk, Mr.Mykhaylo Vyshyvanyuk, visited Alberta to sign a LOU with the Government of Alberta, and a MOU with the City of Edmonton.

- April 2013: Members of the Ukraine Juvenile Justice Reform Project (UJJRP) Judicial Working Group visited Alberta to learn about the Canadian youth justice system.

- June 2012: Justice stakeholders from Ivano-Frankivsk visited Alberta to learn about the Canadian youth justice system.

- October 2011: Justice stakeholders from Melitopol, Zaporizia Oblast in eastern Ukraine, visited Alberta to learn about the Canadian youth justice system.

- June 2010: The Governor of Ivano-Frankivsk, Mr. Mykhaylo Vyshyvanyuk, visited Alberta to attend the Canada-Ukraine Business Forum.

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION

- The Ukrainian Ambassador to Canada is Mr. Andriy Shevchenko.

- Canada's Ambassador to Ukraine is Mr. Roman Waschuk.

- Canada also has a Consulate in Lviv.

- Ukraine's Consul General in Toronto is Mr. Andrii Veselovskyi.

- Ukraine's Honorary Consul in Vancouver is Mr. Mir Ihor Lubomyr Huculak.